IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The present invention generally relates to data processing, and more particularly, to the accessing of data through a logical framework.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] The client computer 102 includes a Central Processing Unit (CPU) 110 connected via a bus [[130]] 126 to a memory 112, storage 114, an input device 116, an output device 119, and a network interface device 118. The input device 116 can be any device to give input to the client computer 102. For example, a keyboard, keypad, light-pen, touch-screen, track-ball, or speech recognition unit, audio/video player, and the like could be used. The output device 119 can be any device to give output to the user, e.g., any conventional display screen. Although shown separately from the input device 116, the output device 119 and input device 116 could be combined. For example, a display screen with an integrated touch-screen, a display with an integrated keyboard, or a speech recognition unit combined with a text speech converter could be used.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] The abstract queries processed by the runtime component 150 may be configured to access the data and return results, or to modify (i.e., insert, delete or update) the data. In one embodiment, elements of a query are specified by a user through a graphical user interface (GUI). The content of the GUIs is generated by the application(s) 140. In a particular embodiment, the GUI content is hypertext markup language (HTML) content which may be rendered on the client computer systems 102 with the user interface 122. Accordingly, the memory 132 includes a Hypertext Transfer

Protocol (http) server process [[138]] 152 (e.g., a web server) adapted to service requests from the client computer 102. For example, the process [[138]] 152 may respond to requests to access a database(s) 156, which illustratively resides on the server 104. Incoming client requests for data from a database 156-157 invoke an application 140. When executed by the processor 130, the application 140 causes the server computer 104 to perform the steps or elements embodying the various aspects of the invention, including accessing the database(s) 156-157. In one embodiment, the application 140 comprises a plurality of servlets configured to build GUI elements, which are then rendered by the user interface 122. Where the remote databases 157 are accessed via the application 140, the data abstraction model 148 is configured with a location specification identifying the database containing the data to be retrieved. This latter embodiment will be described in more detail below.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] FIG. 1 is merely one hardware/software configuration for the networked client computer 102 and server computer 104. Embodiments of the present invention can apply to any comparable hardware configuration, regardless of whether the computer systems are complicated, multi-user computing apparatus, single-user workstations, or network appliances that do not have non-volatile storage of their own. Further, it is understood that while reference is made to particular markup languages, including HTML, the invention is not limited to a particular language, standard or version. Accordingly, persons skilled in the art will recognize that the invention is adaptable to other markup languages as well as non-markup languages and that the invention is also adaptable future changes in a particular markup language as well as to other languages presently unknown. Likewise, the http server process [[138]] 152 shown in FIG. 1 is merely illustrative and other embodiments adapted to support any known and unknown protocols are contemplated.

Please replace paragraph [0047] with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] Any number of access methods are contemplated depending upon the number of different types of logical fields to be supported. In one embodiment, access methods for simple fields, filtered fields and composed fields are provided. The field specifications 2081, 2082 and 2085 exemplify simple field access methods 2121, 2122, and 2125, respectively. Simple fields are mapped directly to a particular entity in the underlying physical data representation (e.g., a field mapped to a given database table and column). By way of illustration, the simple field access method 2121 shown in FIG. 2B maps the logical field name 2101 (“FirstName”) to a column named “f_name” in a table named “contact”, where the table name and the column name are the physical location parameters of the access method 2121. The field specification 2083 exemplifies a filtered field access method 2123. Filtered fields identify an associated physical entity and provide rules used to define a particular subset of items within the physical data representation. An example is provided in FIG. 2B in which the filtered field access method 2123 maps the logical field name 2103 (“AnytownLastName”) to a physical entity in a column named “l_name” in a table named “contact” and defines a filter for individuals in the city of Anytown. Another example of a filtered field is a New York ZIP code field that maps to the physical representation of ZIP codes and restricts the data only to those ZIP codes defined for the state of New York. The field specification 2084 exemplifies a composed field access method 2124. Composed access methods compute a logical field from one or more physical fields using an expression supplied as part of the access method definition. In this way, information which does not exist in the underlying data representation may be computed. In the example illustrated in FIG. 2B the composed field access method 2123 maps the logical field name 2103 “AgeInDecades” to “AgeInYears/10”. Another example is a sales tax field that is composed by multiplying a sales price field by a sales tax rate.